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Small Business Takes Big Step into Porcelain Manufacturing

TITUSVILLE, Fla. —Like many small businesses, Barn Light Electric began as a weekend hobby for Bryan and Donna Scott of Titusville, Florida. Having grown up in the shadow of the Kennedy Space Center in a time when American ingenuity meant everything to this community, the couple learned early on what hard work and imagination can do.

With full-time professional careers and three children, the pair shared a passion for vintage American lighting. They would find, restore, and rewire vintage treasures and post them to a simple web page. It wasn't long before they realized others shared their love for barn style lighting and their hobby blossomed into a business.

"What we really wanted was to revitalize the craft of hand-spun porcelain shades," Bryan Scott says. "But we discovered that this particular manufacturing process had died 50 years ago to make way for less expensive techniques." With a strong desire to bring back this quality form of manufacturing to America, the couple began to plan for its revival.

Today, their industrial shop operates two shifts where metal artisans begin the process with a flat disc of commercial-grade steel. Using constant and intense pressure, the disc is spun at 2,500 rpm around a mold until the desired shape is created.

"This craft is extremely difficult as the spinner must use his strength to keep the shade spinning while the precise shape develops," Scott explains. In the porcelain factory, workers hand apply two layers of porcelain enamel glass then the shades are baked in a 1,600-degree porcelain oven which produces a high gloss finish that will never fade or corrode.

Today, Barn Light Electric is the only company in America manufacturing porcelain enamel lighting. They offer a wide variety of shades as cord hung and stem mount pendants, gooseneck lights, and wall sconces. These shades come with dozens of finish options including 9 brilliant and shiny finish colors, wire cages, and cast guard and glass.

In one of the worst economies in our country's history, the Scotts have built a successful business and have been featured on several DIY Network shows, "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition," and the Discovery Channel's "Construction Intervention." They are proud to have revived a long-lost art form and to create this timeless, high quality lighting right here in the USA.

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